

### Abstract of the Disclosure

A memory device having a memory array of nonvolatile memory elements also includes one or more security rows (or columns) of security bits that can be programmed to a locked status. External memory access requests are processed by first reading the corresponding security bit. If the requested row or column is locked, a default zero value is returned. Only external requests of unlocked locations, and all internal access requests, return the actual memory contents. Security bits can be erased (unlocked), but the secured contents of the locked row or column is also erased at the same time.